

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In compressions of digital images, image types are defined, each having a preassigned quantization step-size set. The digital image is decomposed to produce a plurality of subbands. Coefficients of the subbands are quantized according to the quantization step-size set of the base image type to provide

5 quantized coefficients. Each subband is partitioned into codeblocks. The codeblocks are each assigned one of the image types and a corresponding quantization step-size set. Bitplanes are formed from the quantized coefficients. Bitplanes or partial-bitplanes having a discard parameter in a predetermined range are discarded. The discard parameter is a function of the

10 assigned step-size set of the respective codeblock.